A New Bamboo from Mt. Kinabalu

by

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In 1956 I described five species of a new genus *Racemobambos,* slender bamboos from mountain forest, three of them from Mt. Kinabalu (Gard. Bull. Sing. 15: 267–273). When visiting that mountain in November 1972 I found a fourth species in flower, on the ridge below Kambarangoh, a route followed by many persons who have climbed the mountain during the past forty years. I did not find young culms from which culm-sheaths could be described, and hope someone else will be able to remedy this deficiency. The strongly tessellate lower surface of the leaves (at least when dry) and their quite large size, are distinctive, and should be sufficient to identify a plant which is not flowering. A comparison of living plants with *R. hirsuta* is desirable.

Racemobambos tessellata Holttum, **sp. nov.**

Vaginae basium culmorum non visae. Culmus florifer c. 8 mm diametro, glaber; rami ad quodque nodum c. 8, inaequales, usque 80 cm longi, longiores ramosi; ramuli ultimi basi foliiferi apicem versus floriferi; folia usque 16 cm longa, 1.9 cm lata, subtus valde tessellata, basi auriculis parvis setas tenues flexuosas usque 10 mm longas ferentibus praedita, in apicem setiformi 5 mm longum terminata; ramuli floriferi usque 8 cm longi, leviter hirsuti basin versus tantum; spiculae usque 3.5 cm longae; glumae vacuae 2, inferior 6–7 mm longa, 5-venosa, superior 8–9 mm longa, omnino glabrae; rachillae internodia 5 mm longa, apicem versus adpresse sericea; lemmata 9–10 mm longa, marginibus omino minute ciliata, cetera glabra, apice non setiformia; paleae 9–10 mm longae, carinis ciliatis; lodiculae c. 3 mm longae, ciliatae; antherae 5 mm longae.

TYPE: Mt Kinabalu, Sabah, below Kambarangoh, in ridge forest at 6500 ft, Holttum 46, Nov. 1972. (SING; dupl. K.).

In its foliage this species is near *R. hirsuta,* which is only known from the original Clemens collection on Penibukan ridge; but *R. hirsuta* is densely appressed-hairy throughout the branches of the inflorescence and on the dorsal surface of lemmas, and its leaves are not tessellate on the lower surface. The leaves of *R. tessellata* have very distinct cross-veins connecting the smaller longitudinal veins with which they make a tessellate pattern. *R. tessellata* has a'so a much more amply branched inflorescence than *R. hirsuta* and its lemmas lack the short setiform tip found in *R. hirsuta.*